

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending; claims 1-43 and 46-48 are rejected; and claims 44 and 45 are objected to in this application. Claims 1, 40 and 46 are amended hereby; and claims 42 and 44 are cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to the abstract, Applicants have amended the abstract to shorten its length.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-39 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 46 to correct antecedent basis dependency. Applicants submit that claims 1-39 and 46-48 are now definite and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention, and that claims 1-39 and 46-48 are now in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,658,290 (Lechot), Applicants have amended claim 40 to include the elements of claims 42 and 44. The Examiner has indicated that claim 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, to which Applicants have attended by placing the limitations of claim 44 into claim 40. Applicants have also cancelled claims 42 and 44, since the limitations therein have now been amended into claim 40. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 40, 41 and 43 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-39 and 46-48 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, which the Applicants have attended to herein. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-39 and 46-48 would be allowable if rewritten.

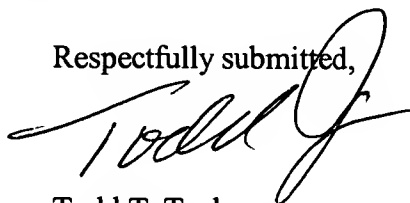
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the

invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: July 20, 2004

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Signature

July 20, 2004

Date